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Larry Lee Roundy

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WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI,
L.L.P.

20333 SH 249

SUITE 600

HOUSTON, TX 77070

EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Document 1 (ITUT-T H.243, 03/1996: Procedures for establishing communication between three or more audiovisual terminals using digital channels up to 1920 kbit/s).

Regarding claim 1, Document 1 discloses a method for processing incoming calls according to H.221 protocol comprising: assigning a terminal address with a multipoint control unit (MCU) to an endpoint terminal using a terminal indicate (TIA) message in a first channel, and receiving from the endpoint terminal address in a second channel (reads on BAS: 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Regarding claim 3, Document 1 discloses a processor-based videoconferencing station comprising a multipoint control unit (MCU) and a machine readable medium storing instructions for causing the multipoint control unit to: assign a terminal address to an endpoint terminal indicate assignment (TIA) message in a first channel, and receive from the endpoint terminal the terminal address in a second channel (reads on BAS; 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Regarding claim 7, Document 1 discloses a method for processing calls according to the H.221 protocol comprising: receiving a terminal address assigned by a

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multipoint control unit (MCU) using a terminal indicate assignment (TIA) message in a first channel, and sending the terminal address in a second channel (reads on BAS; 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Regarding claim 9, Document 1 discloses a processor based videoconferencing system endpoint terminal comprising a machine readable medium storing instructions for causing the endpoint terminal to: receive a terminal address assigned by a multipoint control unit using a terminal indicate assignment (TIA) message in the first channel and sending the terminal address in a second channel (reads BAS; 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Regarding claim 11, Document 1 discloses a processor based videoconferencing system endpoint terminal comprising: a receiver for receiving a terminal address assigned by a multipoint control unit using a terminal indicate assignment (TIA) message in a first channel, and a transmitter for sending the terminal address in a second channel (reads BAS; 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Regarding claims 2, Document 1 further discloses the following: receiving the terminal address comprises receipt of a terminal indicate additional channel X (TIX) message (paragraph 4 of 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Claims 4, 8, 10, 12 are rejected on the same basis as claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Document 1 in view of Zhu et al. (US PAT: 6,285,661, hereinafter Zhu) and Nakamura et al. (US PAT: 5,539,811, hereinafter Nakamura).

Regarding claim 5, Document 1 discloses a processor-based videoconferencing session comprising: a receiving incoming calls from different endpoint terminals according to the H.221 protocol, a multipoint control unit (MCU) comprising: a terminal address assignor (implicit in as much as the reference is teaching MCU assigning address to the terminal) for assigning terminal addresses to endpoints terminals, sending terminal indicate assignment (TIA) message to an end point in a first channel, wherein the TIA message contains the terminal address assignor (7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Document 1 differs from claimed invention in that he does not specifically disclose: receiver and transmitter for processing calls, and a analyzer to analyze terminal address sent from the endpoint terminal in a second channel.

However, Zhu discloses low delay real time digital video mixing for multipoint video conferencing which teaches the following: receiver and transmitter (26, fig. 2) for processing calls (col. 3 lines 37-52), and Nakamura teaches the following: a analyzer to analyze terminal address (reads on telephone number) sent from the endpoint terminal in a second channel (abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Document 1 to provide for the following: receiver and

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transmitter for processing calls, and a analyzer to analyze terminal address sent from the endpoint terminal in a second channel as this arrangement would provide necessary paraphernalia to facilitate video conferencing as taught by the above references.

Regarding claim 6, Document 1 further teaches the following: the analyzer interprets a terminal indicate additional channel X (TIX) message from the endpoint terminal (paragraph 4 of 7.2.2 of page 22 of Document 1).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melur Ramakrishnaiah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614